

MARIA TRAPICHLER

## Fabrics of Ceramic Building Materials of Pithekoussai/Ischia

The analysis of samples from Ischia, complemented by samples from the distribution area Velia, led to the distinction of four different fabrics (ISC-CBM-1-4) which are based on two variants of one petrographic–mineralogical group (RVZ 03), as established by R. Sauer<sup>1</sup>. One fabric is only known from its distribution area (Velia, ISC-CBM-5), its petrographic–mineralogical type is known from clays of Ischia (RVZ 06).

### Description of Observed Fabrics

Generally characteristic for all fabrics is a large amount of dark gray and black (volcanic) particles, some iron oxide concretions of usually rusty brown or black appearance. The greater part of the observed fabrics is characterized by a carbonatic matrix without visible carbonatic inclusions (ISC-CBM-1 to ISC-CBM-3), which differ in color and sorting of temper. In a second group (ISC-CBM-4 and 5) carbonatic particles within the matrix are either visible or the matrix is riddled with small carbonate-pseudomorphoses.

**ISC-CBM-1**<sup>2</sup> shows a reddish yellow fabric without visible carbonatic inclusions or carbonate-pseudomorphoses, the sorting of temper being bimodal. **ISC-CBM-2**<sup>3</sup> differs by its pale brown calcareous matrix; **ISC-CBM-3**<sup>4</sup> shows as well a pale brown calcareous matrix, but the contained particles are unsorted.

**ISC-CBM-4** is characterized by a calcareous matrix with distinguishable white and yellowish white calcareous particles. This fabric is the result of laboratory controlled firing of an unfired brick found near a hellenistic kiln under S. Restituta in Lacco Ameno, Ischia.<sup>5</sup>

**ISC-CBM-5**<sup>6</sup> belongs to another petrographical-mineralogical type (RVZ 06). It is characterized by a pale yellow calcareous matrix which is riddled with tiny carbonate-pseudomorphoses, further distinguishable particles are quartz, prominent black and dark gray volcanic inclusions and few rust colored particles.

*Shapes:* Roof tiles of the Campanian type (Gassner 2003, 141–6)

*Chronology:* ISC-CBM-1 to 3 and 5 are attested in Velia in Late Archaic and Classical contexts (Gassner 2003)

### References

Gassner V. 2003. *Materielle Kultur und kulturelle Identität in Elea in spätarchaisch-frühklassischer Zeit. Untersuchungen zur Gefäß- und Baukeramik aus der Unterstadt (Grabungen 1987–1994)*. Archäologische Forschungen 8 = Velia-Studien 2, Wien: Verlag Akademie der Wissenschaften.

<sup>1</sup> For the method and sampling strategy see also Gassner et al. 2003, 203–4, for the analysed samples see previously Gassner and Sauer 2002, 553.

<sup>2</sup> Previously published as the very similar fabrics Z 5, Z 9, Z 11 and Z 12, see Gassner 2003, 142, table 359–60, color pl. 10. 11.

<sup>3</sup> Previously published as fabrics Z 2, see Gassner 2003, 142. 143 table 359 color pl. 10.

<sup>4</sup> Previously published as fabrics Z 1, see Gassner 2003, 142. 143 table 359 color pl. 10.

<sup>5</sup> For the kiln and production area at S. Restituta see now Olcese 2010, 25–31. The samples come from the area Olcese 2010, fig. III 1 B.

<sup>6</sup> Previously published as Z 13, see Gassner 2003, 142. 143 table 360 color pl. 11.

- Gassner V., and R. Sauer. 2002, "Archaeometrical Characterisation and Provenance Studies on Pottery found at Velia (Southern Italy)". In *Archaeometry 98. Proceedings of the 31<sup>st</sup> Symposium, Budapest, April 26–May 3, 1998*, edited by E. Jermolov, and K. T. Biró, 547–554. *BAR-IS 1043,2*. Oxford: John & Erica Hedges LTD.
- Gassner V., G. Greco, and R. Sauer. 2003. "Analisi archeometriche a Velia: ceramiche arcaiche e laterizi". In *Elea – Velia, Le Nuove Ricerche, Atti del Convegno di studi, Napoli, 14 dicembre 2001*, edited by G. Greco, 199–205. Quaderni del Centro Studi Magna Grecia I. Naples: Naus.
- Olcese G. 2010. *Le anfore greco - italiche di Ischia. Artigianato ed economia nel golfo di Napoli*. Rome: Anno Edizione.

This article should be cited as: M. Trapichler, "Fabrics of Ceramic Building Materials of Ischia". In **FACEM** (version 06/06/2011) (<http://www.facem.at/project-papers.php>)